

Amendment No. 1 to SB1952

Gresham
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1952

House Bill No. 1882*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "middle college" means a program operated by an eligible public two-year postsecondary institution in partnership with an LEA that permits rising high school juniors to enter the public two-year postsecondary institution and to earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree in two (2) years.

(b)

(1) A three-year middle college pilot program is established to encourage rising high school juniors to earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree in two (2) years. The pilot program shall begin in the fall semester of the 2016-2017 school year and shall conclude at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

(2) The middle college pilot program shall only be available to students in an LEA that has partnered with an eligible public two-year postsecondary institution to establish a middle college program. The middle college pilot program shall also only be available to students enrolled in LEAs in counties having a population, according to the 2010 federal census or any subsequent federal census, of:

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not less than:

nor more than:

17,900

18,000

21,900

22,000

22,200

22,245

40,700

40,800

48,500

48,600

54,100

54,200

56,000

56,100

75,100

75,200

(c) To be eligible for the pilot program, a student shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for the program under § 49-4-904;

(2) Be classified as an in-state student under the rules of the board of regents on the date of enrollment in the middle college program and on the date of reenrollment in each subsequent academic year;

(3) Be admitted to, and enrolled in, an eligible public two-year postsecondary institution that is participating in the middle college program in the fall semester of the student's junior year in high school; and

(4) Make application to both the student's high school and to TSAC for admission to the middle college pilot program.

(d) The middle college pilot program shall be limited to high school students who are scheduled to graduate from high school by the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Applicants for entry into the program must be rising high school juniors in either the 2016-2017 or the 2017-2018 school years.

(e)

(1) A student who is admitted to the middle college pilot program shall receive the middle college scholarship. Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, a middle college scholarship awarded to a student participating in the middle college pilot program and attending an eligible two-year postsecondary institution while enrolled in high school shall be one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for full-time attendance for each semester. This award amount shall apply to the initial entering class of the middle college pilot program class beginning in the fall semester of 2016 and to the entering class in the fall semester of 2017.

(2) There is created in the lottery for education account under § 4-51-111 a special subaccount to be known as the middle college pilot program account. Subject to a general appropriation from net lottery proceeds deposited in the lottery for education account, three million dollars (\$3,000,000) shall be transferred to the middle college pilot program account at the beginning of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The net lottery proceeds in the middle college pilot program account shall be used for middle college scholarships as provided in the general appropriations bill for the three-year length of the pilot program. The amount remaining in the middle college pilot program account at the end of the 2016-2017 and the 2017-2018 fiscal years shall not revert to the lottery for education account but shall remain available for use for middle college scholarships in subsequent fiscal years during the duration of the pilot program.

At the end of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, all net lottery proceeds remaining in the middle college pilot program account shall revert to the lottery for education account.

(3) In the first and third years of the middle college pilot program, no more than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) shall be expended from the middle college pilot program account. In the second year of the program, no more than one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) shall be expended from the middle college pilot program account.

(4) TSAC shall award middle college scholarships to eligible students who are rising high school juniors in the 2016-2017 and the 2017-2018 academic years on a first come, first served basis. A student who does not receive a scholarship as a rising high school junior shall not be eligible to receive a middle college scholarship in the student's senior year of high school.

(f)

(1) To maintain eligibility for the middle college scholarship, a student shall meet all nonacademic requirements of the program and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 at the end of each semester in the pilot program for all postsecondary courses attempted under the middle college scholarship.

(2) If a student drops out of the middle college pilot program or fails to maintain eligibility for the middle college scholarship at the end of any semester, the student shall not be able to reenter the pilot program or regain the scholarship.

(g)

(1) A student who successfully completes the middle college pilot program and receives both a high school diploma and an associate degree shall

be eligible to receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship at the time of transfer to an eligible four-year postsecondary institution in pursuit of a baccalaureate degree, if the student:

(A) Meets all nonacademic requirements for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship;

(B) Meets the requirements of § 49-4-911(a)(1) or (a)(2) at the time of transfer;

(C) Applies for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship; and

(D) Transfers to the eligible four-year institution within sixteen (16) months of receiving the associate degree.

(2) To continue to be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship at the end of subsequent semesters when eligibility is checked, the student shall meet the requirements of § 49-4-911.

(3) A student who received an associate degree through the middle college pilot program shall be eligible for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship until the student reaches a terminating event under § 49-4-913. Semester hours attempted and full-time equivalent semesters enrolled in as a middle college pilot program student shall count toward the limits on semester hours attempted and full-time equivalent semesters under § 49-4-913. The five-year period in which a student is eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall start at the time the student enrolled in the public two-year postsecondary institution as a middle college pilot program student, but shall not include any time between the receipt of the associate degree and enrollment in a eligible four-year postsecondary institution.

(h)

(1) A student who enrolls in, but does not complete the middle college pilot program and does not receive an associate degree shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship upon enrolling in an eligible postsecondary institution within sixteen (16) months after completion of high school, if the student:

- (A) Is not ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904;
- (B) Meets all requirements of § 49-4-905(a); and
- (C) Meets the requirements of § 49-4-907 or § 49-4-908.

(2) Semester hours attempted and full-time equivalent semesters enrolled in as a middle college pilot program student shall count toward the limits on semester hours attempted and full-time equivalent semesters under § 49-4-913. The five-year period in which a student is eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall include any time in which the student was enrolled as a middle college pilot program student, but shall not include any time in which the student was attending high school after leaving the middle college pilot program or any time between graduation from high school and enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution.

(3) Financial assistance received for courses attempted in the middle college pilot program shall reduce the amount of any subsequent award of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship on a dollar per dollar basis.

(i) A student receiving a middle college scholarship shall not be eligible for a dual enrollment grant under § 49-4-930.

(j) The award of middle college scholarships shall commence with the 2016-2017 academic year and shall cease at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year.

(k) Upon the conclusion of the pilot program, TSAC shall prepare a report detailing the number of students who participated in the pilot program, the number of

students who successfully completed the pilot program, a comparison of the projected cost of the program and the actual cost of the program, and the possibility of implementing the program statewide. TSAC shall include any recommendations it has as to the continuation or expansion of the pilot program. TSAC shall provide a written copy of the report to the education committee of the senate, the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives, and the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives no later than February 15, 2020.

SECTION 2. TSAC, in consultation with the state board of education, is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this act. The rules shall be promulgated in accordance with title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds, and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.